(c) whether Nigeria has also invited Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to set up petro-chemical plant; and

(d) if so, to what extent India has agreed to help and assist both Nigeria and Qatar setting up petroleum plants which will benefit India by obtaining oil from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has no agreement with Nigerian Authorities. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered between ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) (a Joint Venture of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL). and Mittal Investments Sari) and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which envisages an investment of US$6 billion in Nigeria on infrastructure Projects, prorated according to average production realized by OMEL from the two blocks it has been awarded in Nigeria.

(c) and (d) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) has not received any formal invitation from Government of Nigeria for setting up Petro Chemical Plant. In so far as Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is concerned, this Ministry has no information. Setting up of petroleum plants depends on commercial consideration techno-economic feasibility studies carried out by companies.

Decline in price of petrol and diesel

787. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to decrease price of petrol and diesel related items according to decline in international prices; and

(b) the steps taken to benefit the same to customers especially kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In view of the recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the Retail Selling Prices (RSPs) of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

(b) As Kerosene is used by the common man for cooking and lighting purposes, the retail sale price of PDS Kerosene has not been increased since March 2002, in spite of the increasing under-recoveries incurred by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies on the sale of PDS Kerosene.